

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A method for creating user selected customized digital data compilations, comprising:

5        selecting a data file for a custom compilation at a local client associated with a  
         database containing digital data and having an output device;  
         if the selected data file is available at the database associated with the local client,  
         obtaining a copy of the selected data file from the database;  
         if the selected data file is not available at the database associated with the local  
10       client, obtaining a copy of the selected data file from a remote server  
         associated with a database containing digital data;  
         creating a compilation list including the obtained data file; and  
         if the compilation list is complete, publishing the compilation to the local client  
         output device.

15       2. The method of claim 1, further comprising if the selected data file is not available at  
         the database associated with the remote server, adding the unavailable data file to a list to  
         obtain the file in the future.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein publishing the compilation to the local client  
output device comprises:

20       selecting the media type for the publication;  
         selecting the format type for the publication;  
         formatting the data file for publication;  
         executing a billing routine to bill the user for use of the data file; and  
         publishing the formatted data file in the selected media type.



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4. The method of claim 3, wherein executing the billing routine comprises:  
sending billing information associated with the data file to the remote server; and  
billing the user based on the billing information related to use of the data file.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the data file includes information billing  
5 information related to use of the data file; and further comprising:  
obtaining billing information from the data file;  
sending billing information to the remote server; and  
billing the user based on the billing information related to use of the data file.
6. A system for creating user selected customized digital data compilations,  
10 comprising:  
a local client associated with a database containing media data, the local client  
including an input device, and output device and a processor;  
a remote server associated with a database containing media data, the remote  
server coupled to the local client via a network;  
15 wherein the processor of the local client is configured to:  
receive a user selection of a data file for a custom compilation at the local  
client via the local client input device;  
if the selected data file is available at the database associated with the  
local client, obtain a copy of the selected data file from the database;  
20 if the selected data file is not available at the database associated with the  
local client, obtain a copy of the selected data file from a remote server  
associated with a database containing digital data;  
create a compilation list including the obtained data file; and  
if the compilation list is complete, publish the compilation to the local  
25 client output device.



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7. The system of claim 6, wherein the processor is further configured to:  
if the selected data file is not available at the database associated with the remote  
server, add the unavailable data file to a list to obtain the file in the future.
8. The system of claim 6, wherein the processor is configured to publish the  
5 compilation to the local client output device by:  
selecting the media type for the publication;  
selecting the format type for the publication;  
formatting the data file for publication;  
executing a billing routine to bill the user for use of the data file; and  
10 publishing the formatted data file in the selected media type.
9. The system of claim 8, wherein the processor is configured to execute the billing  
routine by:  
sending billing information associated with the data file to the remote server; and  
billing the user based on the billing information related to use of the data file.
- 15 10. The system of claim 6, wherein the data file includes billing information related to  
use of the data file; and wherein the processor is further configured to:  
obtain billing information from the data file;  
send billing information to the remote server; and  
bill the user based on the billing information related to use of the data file.
- 20 11. A method for creating user selected customized digital data compilations,  
comprising:  
selecting a data file for a custom compilation at a local client associated with a  
database containing digital data and having an output device, the data file  
including billing information related to use of the data file;



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if the selected data file is available at the database associated with the local client,  
obtaining a copy of the selected data file from the database;  
if the selected data file is not available at the database associated with the local  
client, obtaining a copy of the selected data file from a remote server  
5 associated with a database containing digital data;  
creating a compilation list including the obtained data file;  
obtaining billing information from the data file;  
sending billing information to the remote server;  
billing the user based on the billing information related to use of the data file; and  
10 if the compilation list is complete, publishing the compilation to the local client  
output device.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising if the selected data file is not available  
at the database associated with the remote server, adding the unavailable data file to a list to  
obtain the file in the future.

15 13. The method of claim 11, wherein publishing the compilation to the local client  
output device comprises:

selecting the media type for the publication;  
selecting the format type for the publication;  
formatting the data file for publication;  
20 executing a billing routine to bill the user for use of the data file; and  
publishing the formatted data file in the selected media type.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein executing the billing routine comprises;  
sending billing information associated with the data file to the remote server; and  
billing the user based on the billing information related to use of the data file.



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